

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am outraged by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections, not that it mattered with the court intervening and stopping the Florida recount in effect appointing the president.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC must define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should be required to air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us. Or do you want our country to be like those countries run by dictatorships?

Sincerely,

Anne Daletski
1800 S East Camano drive
Camano Island, WA 982827638